

CHAPLIN AD-HOC BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Chaplin, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2022

Chairperson Leslie Ricklin called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM. Present were members Warren Church, Dick Weingart, Anne Sicilian, Bob Grindle, Ann Lewis, Julie Lindquist and Bill Rose. Others present were First Selectman Juan Roman, Treasurer Diana Alvarez and Rec Commission Chair Dave Stone.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2022:

Motion to approve the minutes from January 11, 2022 was made by Bob Grindle with the following correction: Item #5b – correct the name of descendant following the Bicentennial Facebook page to Terry Chaplin. *The motion was seconded by Ann Lewis and carried unanimously.*

Meetings are no longer considered special meetings with posted meeting dates and an Annual Report.

An invitation was received from the Windham Concert Band to do an outdoor concert this year that could be held under the tent (cost \$600) and cohosted with the Senior Center and Library.

Motion to add to agenda as Item #5A – Windham Concert Band, was made by Bob Grindle, seconded by Anne Sicilian and carried unanimously.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Presentation by Diana Alvarez about other items to sell:

Diana Alvarez presented sample items to sell for the Bicentennial including: blanket; bag (available in different colors - \$15- \$20), polo (\$28), vest (\$25), long sleeve fleece vest, crew sweatshirt (\$20-\$24), big mug (\$8); hoodie (\$25 to \$30); and a special-order catalog (add \$10 to the cost of the item for embroidering). Discussion was held regarding what items to sell and where to sell them including: t-shirts, mugs and maps at the Sept 10th event; setup booth and wear samples at events such as the Mother's Day Plant Sale that draws a big crowd (Diana will be the liaison); setup subcommittee to work with Diana (Bob will work with Diana); create a flyer with Diana's contact information and items available; select 3-4 items to offer including a hoodie, setup table at the Senior Center with sample items for people to look at (Bill will work with Diana); display sample items at the first in-person talk on March 16th to see how it goes; purchase 10 cases (12 each) of mugs for the July and Sept 10th event.

Motion to purchase and inventory 10 cases (12 each) of mugs for \$960 to sell with price to be determined, was made by Bill Rose, seconded by Bob Grindle and carried with one abstention by Julie Lindquist.

Motion to allow the First Selectman to speak, add an Audience for Citizens to the next agenda and to move Item #4j - Dick Weingart: costs for the Sept 10 event with Recreation Commission to before Item #4b, was made by Dick Weingart, seconded by Bill Rose and carried unanimously.

First Selectman Juan Roman would like to start putting Bicentennial events on the electronic sign. The sign is 2-sided with messages of 12 items or less for ease of reading (need 2-3 week notice before the event is scheduled with priority given to emergencies). The Committee was asked if anyone is interested in working on the wording (Ann is interested).

Dick Weingart – costs for the Sept 10 event with Recreation Commission:

There were many good ideas at the meeting with the Rec Commission (very enthusiastic group) that is looking for guidance from the Bicentennial Committee on programs beyond fireworks and music (2 bands cost about \$1,500 for 4 hours at the previous display). The Commission asked for a leader from the Committee to attend the next Rec Commission meeting (Warren will attend) to discuss activities

and funding (there is enough funding with fundraising and funds set aside by the town for this event). A list of activities will be generated with costs. Rec Commission Chair Dave Stone suggested entertainment throughout the day and working off the schedule established by the Committee with a magician, multiple music genres, dunk tanks and bounce houses. Anne Sicilian suggested karate demonstrations, a dance troupe and will do a nature scavenger hunt with prizes. Gym teacher Linda Caron has volunteered to do old-fashioned games. Angie Jacques has volunteered to do Mega Yoga. Bill Rose suggested floats park inside the gate from the playscape along the fence line (would need to extend the permit hours). Dave Stone reported it is time to approve and sign the contract for the Fireworks (previous deluxe display cost \$7,500 – equivalent is now at \$10,000). The Town has an ordinance that requires soliciting competitive bids (Dick will work with Dave on the RFP).

Motion to approve equivalent deluxe Fireworks package as 2019 not to exceed \$10,000 was made by Warren Church, seconded by Bill Rose and carried unanimously.

Dave Stone presented items and costs from the previous display: police presence – about \$5,000 (4 troopers and 1 sergeant); 4 certified flaggers -\$1,000; free lighting secured through the Dept of Homeland Security (the Rec Commission is putting up 2 huge stadium lights in the park); porta potty - \$1,500 to \$2,000. Many volunteers are needed for the event with the biggest demand for parking (Ann will post to the Facebook page).

b. Warren Church – the play:

Warren Church expressed concerns regarding no response from Director Sydney Dubitsky and is looking for an alternative plan of action. Donna Dufresne is willing to help with ideas and Rusty Lanzit is also very interested and asked for a copy of the play. Bill Rose will talk to his wife about interest from the Windham Theater Guild (she went to school with them). Anne Sicilian suggested checking with the Parish Hill drama teacher and Ann Chuk. Looking for the best way to salvage this event and would like to have a subcommittee meeting to discuss (Leslie will work with Warren).

c. Anne Sicilian - “Celebrate Chaplin” poster activity: Nothing new to report.

d. Bob Grindle – signage/posters, discussion about background:

The Committee was presented with the 3ft x 5ft sign for the display case at the Town Hall. Discussion was held regarding lawn signs similar to the 3ft x 5ft sign that included the following: lawn signs not necessary until April; remove “Save the Date” and just have the date of September 10, 2022; remove the American flag and have a plain background, have a background that reflects Chaplin such as sparkling fireworks on each side. Will ask Gagnon Signs to do mockups with the above suggestions and email them to the Committee.

e. Julie Lindquist – calendar sales:

Calendars have sold well (about 200) with positive feedback. There are 6 left from the 3rd batch. Anne Sicilian asked to save four copies for people out of town that have expressed interest in the calendar on Facebook. Leslie Ricklin suggested saving one copy for the Bicentennial archives. Bill Rose suggested having a time capsule (add to next month’s agenda).

f. All members – report on ad solicitations:

Bill Rose asked for clarification of the size and cost of the ads to present to businesses he has contacted (all have expressed interest). Discussion was held on who is going to collect and collate the digital copies from businesses (Ann will setup a Bicentennial Gmail account and Julie will collect the emails). Julie Lindquist reported that she has been soliciting businesses not on the master list (Windham Hospital and other smaller places) and giving out receipts from a receipt book.

g. Bill Rose - Museum and the Parade:

Museum – The Museum cannot be used for any public events as is. The first step is to get through the Historic District Commission and get a Public Hearing scheduled for input. The Museum will be dedicated as the William Philbrick Memorial Museum.

Parade – Need to get the word out for the parade by recruiting farms, businesses, antique cars, the Fire Department, Fife & Drum Corps, the Senior Center, the Library, the schools and the Parish Hill Marching Band. Bill Rose has a tractor and wagons available with first choice going to town agencies.

h. Leslie Ricklin – report about T-shirts:

Favorable comments have been received about the design for the T-shirts but not for the color (Kelly Green). Will change color to Hunter Green and email to the Committee. Dick Weingart suggested mockups with two other shades of green.

i. Ann Lewis – update on Facebook page:

A lot has been posted to the Facebook page including: January and February Quilt Exhibit in the library, upcoming talk and article on the Bicentennial by Tracy Hastings (there has been a fair amount of coverage in the Chronicle). There are 10 more followers.

j. Dick Weingart – costs for the Sept 10 event with Recreation Commission: Moved to before Item #4b.

k. Warren Church – date for a talk: origin of town names:

The talk on the origin of town names will be held on Saturday, August 13th at 1pm. Cemetery Walk by Rusty Lanzit will be held on June 11th at 3pm. Julie Lindquist asked to Zoom or video tape the talks (contacted Parish Hill teacher). The Committee was presented with Chaplin Village 1880 painting by Rob Bourgeois (shows actual houses at that time) that will be mounted and displayed in the library.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Windham Concert Band: Tabled until the March meeting.

6. SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA:

- Time Capsule
- Rec Commission Update
- Audience for Citizens

7. ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn (5:50 PM) was made by Anne Sicilian, seconded by Bill Rose and carried unanimously.

***Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Scott
Recording Clerk***